



Directorate of
Intelligence

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Afghanistan Situation Report

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4 June 1985

State Dept. review completed

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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

KONAR OFFENSIVE CONTINUES

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[redacted] Soviet and Afghan forces are securing the eastern side of the Konar Valley and pushing up toward Barikowt. [redacted]

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AFGHAN FOREIGN RECONNAISSANCE UNIT

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A reconnaissance unit in the Afghan Army may be carrying out covert activities in Pakistan.

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DEFECTION OF INSURGENT LEADER SPURS FACTIONAL CONFLICT

3

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The defection of an important tribal leader exacerbates problems between Khalqi and Parcham troops in Qandahar.

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ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONDEMNS OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN

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The final resolutions of the Islamic Conference of December 1984 reaffirmed condemnation of the occupation of Afghanistan.

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KONAR OFFENSIVE CONTINUES [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets and Afghans probably completed the second phase of their offensive in the Konar Valley on Monday aimed at securing the eastern part of the valley [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] This phase of the campaign--probably aimed at relieving the Afghan garrison at Barikowt--

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[REDACTED] The Soviets are continuing to use incendiary munitions and cluster bombs in massed airstrikes against insurgent positions. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Episodes of fierce fighting will continue, but the insurgents will be unable to prevent Soviet and Afghan forces--because of their superior strength and firepower--from seizing the northern part of the valley and relieving the Afghan garrison at Barikowt, which is on the Pakistani border. [REDACTED]

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AFGHAN FOREIGN RECONNAISSANCE UNIT [REDACTED]

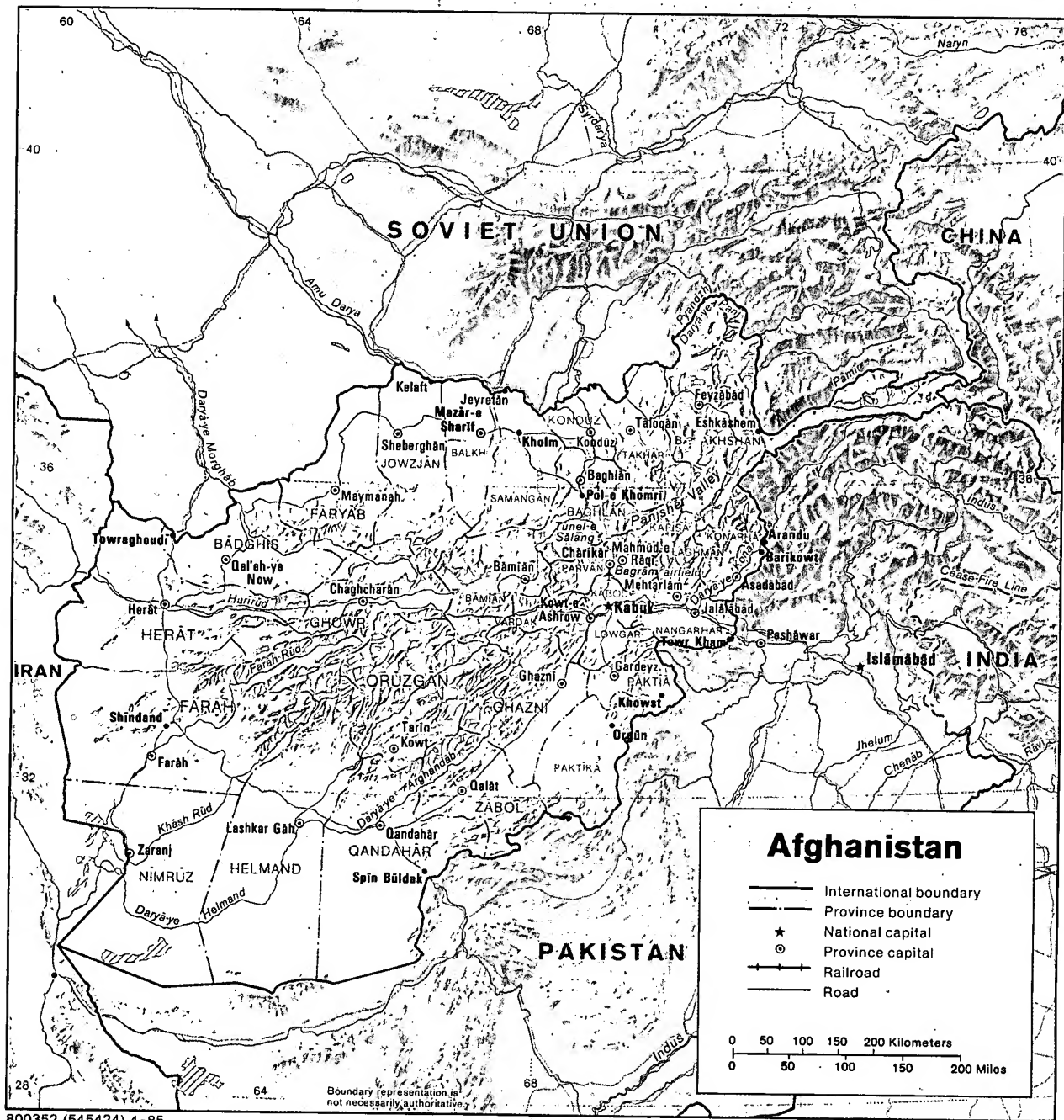
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Comment: The reconnaissance department in the Ministry of Defense directs several other reconnaissance units--often referred to as "insurgent battalions"--assigned to each of the Afghan army corps. These units are tasked with identifying and infiltrating local insurgent groups to obtain intelligence. The 206th Battalion apparently is similar in organization, but

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its mission more closely resembles that of some units in KHAD. It apparently has been operating for more than a year.

DEFECTION OF INSURGENT LEADER SPURS FACTIONAL CONFLICT

Ismatullah Muslim Achakzai, a tribal insurgent leader in Qandahar Province, defected to the Babrak regime along with more than 100 of his men in April, according to US Embassy sources in Kabul.

Ismatullah's defection has exacerbated conflict between the Khalqi and Parcham factions in the area. Khalqis believe their power is being undermined by the Parcham-dominated regime which has charged Ismatullah with leading a tribal militia unit in the region. Khalqi officers recently refused to provide air support to a regime force--including tribesmen who defected with Ismatullah--surrounded by resistance fighters.

Comment: The Afghan Government is increasing attempts to woo tribal leaders from the resistance, and Ismatullah's defection is an important success. His defection and participation in the regime's Loya Jirga have led to resistance calls for his assassination. Khalqi-Parcham problems, pandemic in the Afghan military, probably are intensified by resistance pressure on these units.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONDEMNS OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN

The recently released final resolutions of the December 1984 Islamic Conference foreign ministers' meeting reaffirmed the Conference's condemnation of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The resolution also demands immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. For the first time the Conference denounced violations of Pakistani airspace and the bombing of its territory.

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Comment: The impact of the condemnation of the Soviets was weakened by the delayed release--caused by the slow workings of the Conference bureaucracy. The more widely publicized final communique issued at the close of the meetings failed to mention the Soviets. The Islamic Conference is reluctant to go too far to offend the Soviets for fear of lessening their support for Arab-Israeli issues that are deemed more important to the Muslim world than the occupation of Afghanistan.

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IN BRIEF

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desertions in the Afghan 1st Corps between March 1984 and March 1985 totaled about 9,000 men--more than the assigned strength, and almost as much as the authorized strength of an Afghan infantry division. The 1st Corps also suffered almost 3,000 casualties during the period.

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A paramedic training facility in Peshawar operated by the Union of Afghan Mujahedin Doctors is preparing to graduate its first class

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The students have completed a one-year course of study. A six-month course is also in progress.

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an increasing number of Arab nationals--particularly Iraqis, Syrians, and Algerians--among Afghan guerrillas. Iranians are fighting with Afghan groups. These Arab fighters are mostly in Sayyaf's groups.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

18 June

The US and USSR are scheduled to begin talks on Afghanistan in Washington, DC.

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20 June

The fourth round of proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan is scheduled to resume in Geneva.

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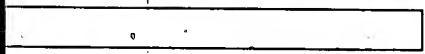

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